

SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 16th JANUARY 2017

PRESENT: Councillors: Mike Walker (Chairman), Mrs. Gwyneth Bullock, John Dodd, John Griffiths, Mrs Chris Jones (County Councillor), Mrs. Joan Keith, Alex Lewis (Vice Chairman). Mrs Mary Southall, and David Wisinger.

Peter Richmond - the Clerk and Financial Officer.

Also in attendance – 2 members of the public.

Wayne Jones – Street Scene – Flintshire County Council

16/215 APOLOGIES FOR NON-ATTENDANCE

Apologies were received from Councillors - Mrs. Barbara Hinds, Norman Jones and Shelley Webber.

RESOLVED – that apologies be received and accepted

16/216 CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION

RESOLVED – that it be noted that no declarations were made to Council at the beginning of the meeting in respect of the agenda.

16/217 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

No matters were raised for discussion.

16/218 CHAIR’S REPORT AND ACTIONS SINCE 12th DECEMBER

The Clerk advised that the Chairman has agreed to the purchase of a replacement laptop for the police to use with the council’s CCTV approx cost £500 plus VAT.

The Chairman advised that he attended the Sealand Christmas Carol Concert and the Dementia Cafe Christmas Party.

RESOLVED – that the Chairman’s actions be noted and decision endorsed.

16/219 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEEING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 12th DECEMBER 2016

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 12th December 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

16/184 POLICE ISSUES

The Clerk advised that both CBM Dave Huxley and PC Martin Price were unable to attend the meeting.

1. Patrols will continue in the area.
2. Community Speed Watch – Dave had advised by email that he has contacted the organiser seeking clarification about the level of welsh language that is required – a response is still awaited.
3. Speed Checks / Sealand Road will be maintained.
4. It was reported that cars are turning into Old Sealand Road at the traffic lights then doing a U-turn – 5 to 6pm – this will continue to be monitored.
5. Small motorbike – two/three youths- Sealand Manor Area and along the riverbank – no further complaints have been received by the police.
6. The County Councillor has asked the Clwyd Alyn Housing Association whether the alleyways on every road on the estate can be closed off. We are experiencing so much anti-social behaviour at the moment and motorbikes speeding around the estate and up the alleys. The County Councillor is awaiting further information from the Clwyd Alyn Housing Association.

RESOLVED – that the above matters be deferred to the next meeting.

16/220 FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

a) Welsh Road Recreation Field / Deeside Lane – Dogs

RESOLVED – that as soon as the new orders have been approved that details be obtained from the County council and added to the Council's web site.

b) Bridleway - Green Lane East

At the July 2016 meeting, it was resolved that the County Council be asked to advise on –

- i) the appropriateness of the traffic signage along Green Lane East (bridleway section) to display that cars are not to use the lane.
- ii) the legal position on the access of vehicles on a bridleway and is there a way that it could be access only for residents. When this is clarified, signs can be erected.
- i) whether a kissing gate could be installed at the end of lane.
- ii) on the rights of people that live along the bridleway section of Green Lane East and their rights to be able drive their cars in and out of the lane.

A reminder was sent after the September and October meetings to Steve Bartley – a reply has not been received.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

c) Water Leaking from Walls – Foxes Lane Underpass

Wayne Jones advised that he is still trying to get an update to find out what's causing water to leak out of the wing walls.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

d) Parking problems – Provision of Double Yellow Lines - Foxes Lane

The Clerk advised that details of the proposed scheme have been advertised and the consultation process is still running. It is understood that one objection has been submitted.

At present, it is assumed that the works will be undertaken in late January 2017 – the council has already received an invoice from the county council in respect of its part contribution of £1,500 toward the cost.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

e) Urgent changes need to be made to traffic lights on Sealand Road / Seahill Road

It was reported the traffic lights meet all the required highway requirements and standards.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

f) Trees need cutting – Flyover Bridge and Green Lane East Roundabout

Wayne Jones advised that the work will be undertaken at night during January or February 2017.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

g) Trees - Sealand Avenue

The County Councillor advised that the work to lop the trees has been approved – about a third of the height will be reduced.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

h) Tree Preservation Order on land opposite St. Bartholomew's Church

Correspondence was circulated about the above and it was reported that the land in question has been purchased and some trees have recently been removed.

It was reported that an officer of the council will be attending the site on 17th January 2017 to meet with the new site owners.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

16/221 LIGHTING MATTERS

a) Street Lighting Report

All lights are working apart from No 19 and 20– Deeside Lane.

Council has 121 lights and this will reduce to 108 with the adoption of the 13 replacement lights at the end of the 2016/17 financial year.

The Clerk reminded Councillors again that should they see a light that needs attention to phone / text or email the Clerk straightaway or to contact Wayne Jones rather than leave to the next meeting of Council. This will ensure that lights can get fixed as soon as possible.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

b) Lighting Improvements – 2016/17

The Clerk reminded Council that it has accepted the quotation from Flintshire County Council agreed to replace and have adopted the following lights - Sealand Avenue Columns 91, 92 and 95 - Manor Road – 28, 29, 30, 35, 36 and 37. Work will shortly be completed. Total cost - £18,000.

At the October meeting, it was resolved that Columns 87,88 and 89 at Sealand Avenue should be replaced and adopted in the 2016/17 financial year. (Cost being £1200 to replace a column and £800 per column for adoption). Work has now been completed. Total cost - £6,000

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

c) Lighting Improvements – 2017/18

The Clerk reminded Council that it allocated £18,000 for lighting improvements and adoption for the 2017/18 financial year. Cost per light being £2000.

RESOLVED - that the following lights be replaced and adopted 96 to 99 at Sealand Avenue and 55 to 59 at Manor Road and for the County Council to be advised accordingly.

**16/222 SECTION 137 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1971
PAYMENT OF GRANTS**

The Clerk advised that the Government has confirmed that the appropriate sum for the S137 Expenditure Limit for the purpose of Section137 (4) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the calculation of the Free Resource Base is based on the local population taken from the current electoral role of 1964 and £7.42 per head produces an upper limit of £14,572.00

Allocation for the 2016/17 financial year for grants is £3,500. £2,375.00 has been paid out so far this year.

The expenditure on free school milk comes under well-being (Local Government Act 2000, Sections (1-5) - this power is restricted by the S137 limit (£7.42 per elector in any given financial year). The school milk estimated expenditure for 2016/17 is £3,100.

Giving a total estimated expenditure of - £6,600

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

16/223 GRANT REQUESTS

The Clerk advised that there were no requests to consider.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

16/224 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk advised that the following planning applications had been received electronically from Flintshire County Council.

056365 - Erection of office premises and siting of temporary office accommodation (including kitchen and W/C) and erection of site lighting at Former Smithy Garage, Sealand Road, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2LQ

056366 - Erection of site signage at former Smithy Garage, Sealand Road, Sealand, Deeside, CH5 2LQ

RESOLVED: - that -

- a) no objections be raised in respect of planning applications 056366.
- b) the Chief Officer (Planning & Environment) be advised that the Council requires further information about PA 056365 before it can consider the application. Information is required about the proposed arrangement to remove the excess surface water from the garage forecourt together with the arrangements to remove and dispose of the sewage to be generated at the site.

16/225 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: - that –

- i) the under mentioned accounts be approved for payment.
- ii) it be noted that the Lloyds Bank charges for the period as previously notified to Council –for the period 10th November to 9th December - £10 will be deducted on or after 9th January 2017.

Cheque No	Payable to	Details	Amount	VAT	Vat Code	Expenditure Powers

003028	Flintshire County Council Note – payment to be withheld until all new lights are working.	Street Lighting Maintenance and Energy October and November 2017 Replacement Lights and Adoption –Sealand Avenue Columns 91, 92 and 95 - Manor Road – 28, 29, 30, 35, 36 and 37.	£19,366.30			Highways Act 1980 (301)
003029	P. Richmond	Salary – January 2017	£636.61			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003030	HM Revenues and Customs Only	Income Tax – PR – January 2017	£242.80			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003031	Communi Corp	Annual Subscription	£100.00			Miscellaneous Powers LGA Act 1972(S111)
003032	P. Richmond	Refund - Stationery	£34.10			Local Govt Act 1972 (S112)
003033	Flintshire County Council Note – payment to be withheld until the yellow lines have been installed	Part Payment Double Yellow Lines - Foxes Lane	£1,500.00			Highways Act 1980 (S274a)
003034	Richie Hayes and Sons Dairy Ltd	School Milk – October to December 2016	£742.90			Local Govt Act 1971 (S137)
Total Spend			£22,622.71			

16/226 INCOME

The Clerk advised that Council had received the following income –

Lloyds Bank – Interest		£2.05
Flintshire County Council	Milk Claim Spring Term 2016	£157.23
	Milk Claim Summer Term 2016	£202.48
	Precept – third payment	£19,000.00
	Total	£19,361.76

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

16/227 PLAY AREAS - SEALAND

The Clerk reminded Council that Alan Roberts has confirmed that he has logged council's submission for 2016/17 and will advise further in the new year if successful - invoices will be sent by 1st March 2017 for payment.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

16/227 LAND DRAINAGE ISSUES

RESOLVED – that Neil Parry – Flintshire County Council should be invited to attend the next meeting of council on Monday 13th February 2017 at 6pm.

16/228 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised that correspondence had been received from –

Dr. Mikhael Khan and Mrs Suada Khan outlining their concerns about the speeding traffic along Seahill Road and the need to lower the speed limit to 30 mph / introduce traffic calming for the 300 metre section of the highway as marked in their correspondence

RESOLVED – that –

- a) the letter be noted.
- b) A reply be sent thanking Dr. Mikhael Khan and Mrs Suada Khan for their letter.

Many thanks for your letter.

Council has been involved over the years with numerous requests to lower the speed limit along Seahill Road. These discussions finally concluded in a reduction in the speed limit by Welsh Government from 60 to 40 mph. The police carry out regular speed checks and Council is keen to start a Community Speed Watch Campaign. Perhaps you would be interested in joining this campaign.

Council understands that the County Council are looking to consider if the Seahill Road footpath can be widened.

Council will ask the County Council to provide additional highway signage to either side of the approach to the railway bridge. Solid white line going up and broken white line going down

Should you wish to discuss further please contact the Council's Chairman councillor Mike Walker - mike@walkercameras.com

16/229 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

RESOLVED – that the matter be deferred.

16/230 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE – 2016

Councillor John Griffiths reported on the history of the standard, carrying halter and. These will be made on available on request to him for use at events in Sealand.

Currently the above are held by Councillor John Griffiths' grandson.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

16/231 **ST. BARTHOLOMEW' S CHURCH – CHRISTMAS CAROL
CONCERT - 2016**

The Chairman said that the service was excellent and was very well attended.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

16/232 **SUMMARY ACCOUNTS 2015/16 FINANCIAL YEAR – AS AT 31st
DECEMBER 2016**

The Clerk advised that in line with council's Financial Regulations he is required to submit details of the Council's overall bank balances in respect of – as at 30th June, 30th September, 31st December and 31st March each year.

The position as at 31st December 2016 is –

Account - no – 0388217 - £ 7,992.06

Account - no – 7326098 - £ 67,213.03 - Total - £75,205.09

Copies of the two bank account accounts were circulated at the meeting.

Less unpaid cheque – 03021 = £10.00 and 03022 = £108.00 – Total £118.00

Total bank Accounts - £ 75,205.09 - less unpaid cheques of £118.00 leaves a new balance of £75,087.09. The Clerk also detailed the Council's summary of accounts that detailed a closing balance of £75,087.09. A copy of the bank statements was signed by the Vice-Chairman who confirmed the accuracy of the Clerk's bank reconciliation figures.

RESOLVED: - that the report be noted.

16/233 **SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS -
2016/17 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk outlined the finalised expenditure and income for the 2016/17 financial year up to cheque number 003034 -

2016/17

Financial Year

Income

	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
General Admin Inc. Precept.	£57,000.00	£57,000.00	£0.00
Bank Interest	£17.61	£20.00	-£2.39
Insurance Claims / Refunds	£118.30	£0.00	£118.30
VAT Refund	£890.47	£1,100.00	-£209.53
Milk Claims	£570.27	£750.00	-£179.73
Total	£58,596.65	£58,870.00	-£273.35

Expenditure

	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Play Areas	£2,840.00	£11,000.00	£8,160.00
Staffing Costs	£7,729.32	£9,049.00	£1,319.68
General Admin Costs	£4,655.00	£4,005.00	-£650.00
S137 Grants	£2,525.00	£3,500.00	£975.00
Bank Charges	£30.00	£0.00	-£30.00
Street Lighting	£24,107.10	£25,850.00	£1,742.90
Highways	£1,500.00	£500.00	-£1,000.00
Insurances	£1,099.65	£2,500.00	£1,400.35
Milk – Section 137	£3,123.92	£3,100.00	-£23.92
Chairman’s Fund	£800.00	£800.00	£0.00
Total	£48,409.99	£60,304.00	£11,894.01

Current
Summary

Balance as at 31 March 2016	£42,277.72
Total Expenditure	£48,409.99
Total Income	£58,596.65
Balance	£10,186.66
Overall balance as at 16th January 2017	£52,464.38
VAT Costs for 2016/17 financial year	£359.11

End of Year
Prediction

Balance as at 31 March 2016	£42,777.72
Total Anticipated Expenditure	£60,304.00
Total Anticipated Income	£58,870.00
Anticipated Balance for the year	-£1,434.00
Anticipated Overall Balance as at 31st March 2017	£40,843.72

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

16/234 PENSIONS – A CHANGE IN THE LAW

The Clerk advised that he had received a letter from the Chairman advising that to help people save more for their retirement, all employers are now required by law to provide a workplace pension scheme for certain staff and pay money into it.

Council must enrol any of its staff who meet all of the following criteria:

- earn over £192 per week (or £833 per month)
- aged 22 or over and
- under state pension age

Because the Clerk did not meet these criteria he does not have to become a member of the scheme automatically, but can ask to join it if he wants to. If the Clerk did join, each month he would put money into the pension directly from his pay and the government would also contribute through tax relief. If the Clerk earns over £112 a week (or £486 a month), the minimum amount he would put into the scheme each pay period would be 1% of earnings.

If earnings are over £112 when the Clerk asks to join, council will also contribute to the pension scheme. If earnings are less than £112 a week council is not obliged to contribute to the scheme. If the Clerk wants to join the pension scheme, he should advise the Chairman in writing by sending a letter which has to be signed. In the future if earnings are more than £192 per week (or £833 per month) or turn 22, and you have not joined the scheme, Council will automatically enrol you and tell you we have done this.

The Clerk advised that he responded to the Chairman noting that the Chairman advised that Council must enrol any staff who meet all of the following criteria:

- earn over £192 per week (or £833 per month)
- aged 22 or over and
- under state pension age

The Clerk confirmed that he agreed that he does not meet these criteria and do not have to become a member of the scheme automatically, but can ask to join it if I want to. The Clerk also confirmed that he had considered the offer to join the pension scheme and had advised that he had decided to decline. The Clerk had noted that should he earn more than £192 per week (or £833 per month) that Council will automatically enrol him.

The Clerk advised that Council will need to complete its declarant ion of compliance with the Pension Regulator before 31st August 2017.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

16/235 **2017 SUMMER PYAYSCHMES**

The Clerk advised that he has been advised by the County Council that the cost for the playscheme sites for the first 3 weeks will £1,309 x 2 = £2,618. Plus, for weeks 4 and 5 at both sites £355 x 4 = £1,420. Total funding of £4,030

RESOLVED – that the –

- a) report be noted.
- b) County Council be advised that the Council will cover the indicated costs of £4,030 to provide the 2017 summer playscheme at the two Sealand sites.

16/236 **MILK CLAIM**

The Clerk advised that he had submitted the following milk claim to Flintshire County Council to administer -.

Month	Days	Pupils	Cartons	Cost
September	19	80 x 5 90 x 11	1660	£315.40
October	16	50 x 1 65 x 1 80 x 14	1235	£234.65
November	22	50 x 1 65 x 1 80 x 20	1715	£325.85
December	12	80	1620	£182.40

RESOLVED – that the report be noted

16/237 **SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL – SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS -
2017/18 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Clerk outlined the areas of anticipated income and planned expenditure for the 2017/18 financial year as agreed at the meeting of council held on 12th December 2016

2017/18

Financial Year

	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Income			
General Admin Inc. Precept		£57,000.00	
Bank Interest		£24.00	
Insurance Claims / Refunds		£0.00	
VAT Refund		£500.00	
Milk Claims		£500.00	
Total		£58,024.00	
Expenditure	Actual	Anticipated	Difference
Bank Charges		£60.00	
Chairman’s Fund		£800.00	
Staffing Costs		£9,276.00	
General Admin Costs		£3,795.00	
Insurances		£1,200.00	
Election Costs		£4,500.00	
Play Areas		£8,100.00	
Highways		£700.00	
Street Lighting		£23,400.00	
CCTV Maintenance		£1,000.00	
Grants – Section 137		£2,500.00	
School Milk – Section 137		£3,200.00	
Total		£58,531.00	

16/238 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

No matters were raised

16/239 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No matters were raised

16/240 DATE OF COUNCIL’S NEXT MEETING – 13th FEBRUARY 2017

RESOLVED – that the meetings of Council for 2017 be held on the following Mondays
13th February, 20th March, 10th April, 15th May (AGM), 19th June, 17th July, 18th September,
23rd October, 20th November and 11th December (inc Finance Meeting).

**16/241 IN ACCORDANCE WITH SEALAND COMMUNITY COUNCIL’S
CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Council Member	Item	Minute Reference
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The meeting opened at 6.30pm and closed at 8.35pm

..... Signed 13th February 2017